

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-4 and 7-12 are rejected. Claim 5 is objected to but would be allowable if placed into independent form. Claim 1 is amended. New claim 13 is added.

***Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102***

**Claims 1-4 and 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Williams (4,581,634).** This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

The present invention as now defined by amended claim 1 is directed to an access control device that includes an electronic identification means and an audio communications device. The electronic identification means and the audio communications device are included in a single unit and are configured to use the same communications cable to control access to a physical area or region. The amendment to claim 1 is made to specify that the present invention as claimed includes in one device, two communication systems, namely, an electronic identification system and an audio communication device. These two devices generally are disposed separately. The present invention places these devices in a single unit and includes only one set of cabling as opposed to two.

Support for this amendment can be seen on page 7 of the specification where it says "the incorporation of an electronic identification...along with an audio communications device...provides cost savings and several improvements on functionality", "...as only one device has to be installed...,"and "...with the two devices in one unit...". Details of the problem involved to put these two systems in one unit is seen on page 6 of the specification, which discusses technical issues such as bandwidth requirements, sound quality problems and access control functionality.

Applicant believes that the invention as claimed is novel and inventive over the cited art.

**US 4,581,634 (Williams)**

Applicants note that this reference discloses a security access control device, which includes a camera for scanning an individual space as well as an identification badge reader. The

reference also discusses use of an intercom. However, this intercom is not an integral part of the system.

Further, Applicants note that Williams fails to disclose a single cable or wire carrying both electronic identification data and audio communications data, as is integral to the present invention and is claimed in claim 1. Although the Examiner indicates that Williams discusses "minimal wiring connections", Applicants respectfully submit that this does not embody a disclosure of this expressly claimed aspect of the invention. Thus, Williams cannot anticipate because it does not disclose the present invention as now claimed in claim 1.

Moreover, the claims dependent therefrom also are patentable.

**Claims 1-4 and 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Martin et al (5,979,754).** This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

**US 5,979,754 (Martin et al)**

Martin et al discloses a door control apparatus for use within hotel rooms. The reference discloses use of a card reader which wirelessly transmits electronic information from a main paging transmitter connected with the control system to an internal and central computer. In column 7, Martin discloses use of electrical wiring including intercom wiring which may be utilized as a conduit for relaying signals between the computer and the guest room.

Applicants respectfully submit that Martin et al does not disclose use of an intercom and electronic identification means in a single unit, nor does it disclose use of a single communications cable by both of these devices to control access to an area or region. Martin et al merely describes a card reader which sends an electronic identification signal through a wireless device to a central computer. This computer may then send this data to another computer which can compare guest data against the electronic identification data. Nowhere in the disclosure of Martin et al does it teach the card reader being directly connected to a computer or intercom or directly controlling access to a physical area or region.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
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Applicants therefore submit that the present invention as defined in claim 1 is novel and inventive over the Martin citation. Moreover, the claims dependent therefrom also are patentable.

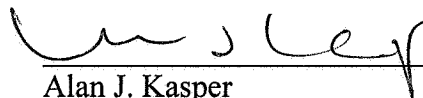
*Allowable Subject Matter*

Claim 5 is considered to be allowable over the prior art and would be allowed if placed into independent form. Applicant has presented claim 5 in independent form as new claim 13. This claim should now be allowed.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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